

From: Michael J. Masquith
To: microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov
Date: 1/7/02 7:45pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I am part of a global network that is focused on getting the BeOS (or an equivalent, possibly open-source) back into the market place, but there is little hope of success if the following issues regarding Microsoft aren't addressed:

- Open Office file formats. MS Office file formats are unfortunately simultaneously ubiquitous and proprietary. Because there is realistically no chance of them being superseded by any open standard, they need to be made non-proprietary, (probably by court order).
- Win32 APIs must be documented and made available.
- Dual-boot options should become mandatory. The single most damaging thing that MS has done was largely ignored (except by those whose businesses were destroyed). Their ability to force the major OEMs to only install Windows precluded any competition whatsoever in the Operating Systems market, precisely where BeOS attempted to compete. Not even the most microscopic vestige of these onerous strong-arm 'agreements' with the OEMs should be allowed to remain. Enormous, crippling penalties should be swiftly and irrevocably levied if it recurs.

Anti-trust measures must break down and stomp completely flat all barriers the monopolist erected against competition. BeOS, even in its current weak condition could at least *attempt* to compete if the playing field were set level again.

Thank you.

--Michael J. Masquith
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